

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A method of provisioning one or more software resources of an aggregated service in a computing network, comprising steps of:
 - 3 defining a provisioning interface of the aggregated service;
 - 4 specifying the provisioning interface in a service description document;
 - 5 obtaining credentials of a user of the aggregated service, according to the service
 - 6 description document;
 - 7 analyzing the obtained credentials; and
 - 8 allowing the user to perform the aggregated service if indicated by the analyzing step.

1. 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprises the step of: registering the service
2 description document in a registry.

1. 3. The method according to Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

- 2 defining a provisioning interface of at least one of the one or more software resources of
- 3 the aggregated service; and
- 4 for each of the at least one software resource, specifying the provisioning interface of a
- 5 service performed by the software resource in the service description document or in one or more
- 6 other service description documents.

1. 4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the step of obtaining credentials of the user of
2 the aggregated service also obtains credentials for the at least one software resource, according to

3 the service description document or the one or more other service description documents; and
4 further comprising the step of allowing the user to perform selected services represented
5 by the provisioning interfaces of the at least one software resource, if indicated by the analyzing
6 step.

1 5. The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of obtaining operation-
2 specific credentials of the user, and wherein the step of allowing the user to perform selected
3 services depends on the operation-specific credentials of the selected service.

1 6. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the analyzing step comprises at least one of (1)
2 authentication and (2) authorization of the credentials.

1 7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein identity information is programmatically
2 relayed among distributed services performed by the software resources of the aggregated service.

1 8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the programmatic relaying comprises sending a
2 message which specifies the credentials in a header of the message and a service request in a body
3 of the message.

1 9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the message is a SOAP (“Simple Object
2 Access Protocol”) message.

1 10. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the service description document is specified in
2 a markup language.

1 11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein the markup language is Web Services
2 Description Language (“WSDL”).

1 12. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the registry is a network-accessible registry
2 accessed using standardized messages.

1 13. A system for provisioning one or more software resources of an aggregated service in a
2 computing network, comprising:

3 means for defining a provisioning interface of the aggregated service;

4 means for specifying the provisioning interface in a service description document;

5 means for obtaining credentials of a user of the aggregated service, according to the

6 service description document;

7 means for analyzing the obtained credentials; and

8 means for allowing the user to perform the aggregated service if indicated by the means

9 for analyzing.

1 14. A computer program product for provisioning one or more software resources of an
2 aggregated service in a computing network, the computer program product embodied on one or
3 more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for defining a provisioning interface of the
5 aggregated service;

6 computer-readable program code means for specifying the provisioning interface in a
7 service description document;

8 computer-readable program code means for obtaining credentials of a user of the
9 aggregated service, according to the service description document;

10 computer-readable program code means for analyzing the obtained credentials; and

11 computer-readable program code means for allowing the user to perform the aggregated
12 service if indicated by the computer-readable program code means for analyzing.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176